



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TUITION ASSISTANCE
GRANT PROGRAM



ANNUAL REPORT



ACADEMIC YEAR
2000-2001



A Message from the Mayor

Dear Citizens,

Congratulations to the DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program! I am very proud of the success of this program. It has made the dream of attending college a reality for thousands of District residents. This program is part of the city's overall effort to provide first class educational opportunities so that all of our citizens can reach their full potential.

More than 2,000 District of Columbia high school seniors and college students received a DC Tuition Assistance Grant. Although we have dramatically exceeded our initial goals, our challenge is to provide first-class educational opportunities to all of our citizens so that every resident who wants a college education receives one.

Our special thanks go to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton and the entire U.S. Congress as well as the U.S. Department of Education and others who helped make this program a huge success. As you will read, our students continue to show their appreciation by taking advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to attend colleges and universities across the United States.

Sincerely,

Anthony A. Williams

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor



A Message from the Director



Dear District Citizen:

Just two years ago, District residents had only one low-cost institution of higher education that they could attend. Today, because of the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program, city residents can choose from over 2,000 public institutions throughout the United States. In the 2000-2001 Academic Year, students from all sections of the city were able to take advantage of the program to make their dream of going to college a reality, attending schools in 37 different states, from California to Vermont, from Oregon to Florida.

The Tuition Assistance Grant Program was made possible by an Act of the U.S. Congress, passed late in November of 1999. Most financial aid experts advised against having the District Government run the program. They doubted that the District had the capacity or the time to make this program work by the Fall of 2000. In fact, they doubted that anyone would make this program work within 9 months. The experts told us to wait until the Fall of 2001 to begin awarding Grants to students.

However, Mayor Anthony Williams insisted that the Program start by the Fall 2000 Semester. He felt that waiting until 2001 would result in students missing out on millions of dollars of scholarships. He knew that for many District students, this was not just a financially uncomfortable option, but an actual barrier to attending the college of their choice.

We were able to deliver on our promise, helping 2,000 students attend the college during the 2000-2001 school year, saving on the average \$4,700 in college costs.

Our thanks go to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton and the entire U.S. Congress for helping so many of our residents realize their dreams. We would like to thank the U.S. Department of Education for providing us with invaluable technical assistance. We also want to thank the entire Council of the District of Columbia for their efforts to promote the program in neighborhoods across the city.

We look forward to working with you during the 2001-2002 Academic Year to ensure that all District youth have the opportunity to attend college.

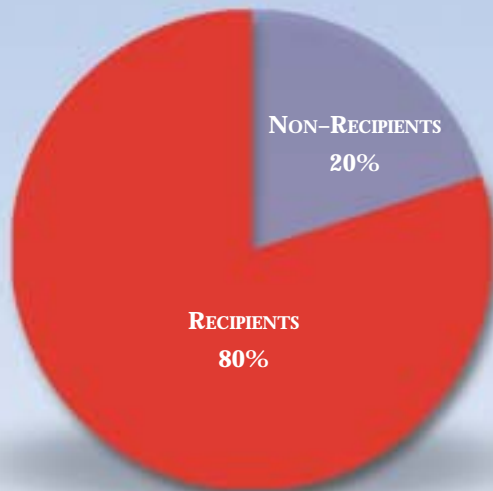
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurent R. Ross". The signature is stylized with a large initial "L" and "R".

Laurent Ross
Director

D.C. TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2000-2001 ACADEMIC YEAR

PERCENTAGE OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS
WHO RECEIVED DCTAG IN THE
PROGRAM'S FIRST YEAR OF
OPERATIONS



IMMEDIATE SUCCESS

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program has done what the experts considered impossible: setting up a successful student aid program in the course of just nine months. More importantly, we got the grants to students. Based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics, we estimate that we were able to reach nearly 80% of eligible students and award them with a Tuition Assistance Grant in our first year. This is a remarkable achievement in light of the experience of the Federal Pell Grant Program. As the accompanying charts demonstrate, the Pell Grant reached only 13% of eligible recipients in its first year of operations and took nearly five years to reach near full capacity.

100% OF COLLEGES ENROLLED

The Congressional Act that created the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program requires that we sign a Program Participation Agreement with every college or university that intends to participate in the program. The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program was able to ensure that every single college and university that D.C. residents chose to attend during the 2000-2001 school year signed an agreement with us.





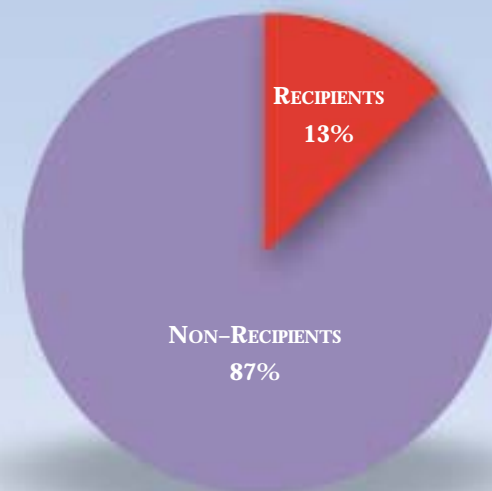
SPREADING THE WORD

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program had an extensive outreach campaign to make residents aware of this brand-new program. For starters, we visited every single public high school in the city at least twice: once to introduce the program to seniors and juniors in an all-school assembly and once at graduation, to make sure parents were aware of the grant. Several high schools invited us back for additional visits. But, we did not stop at public schools. We had an extensive outreach program, participating in literally hundreds of sessions in churches, universities, private high schools, libraries, and community meetings.

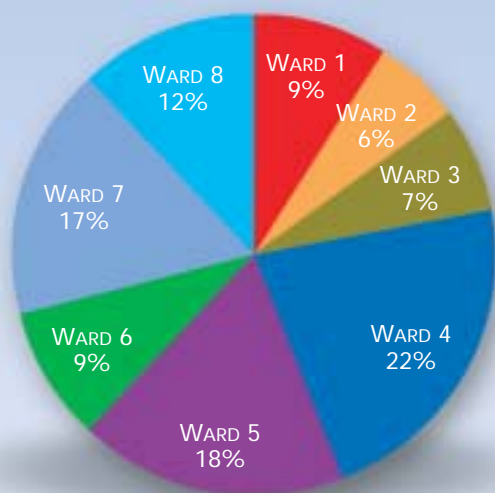
We were fortunate to receive extensive media coverage for the program including appearances in Spanish-language television, radio, and press. An outreach campaign on radio stations WPGC and WKYS, the two most popular radio stations for youth in the 15-24 year old age bracket, was very successful, generating thousands of calls from their listeners. DJs from these stations came out to support our appearances at local high schools.



PERCENTAGE OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A PELL GRANT IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATIONS



DISTRIBUTION OF DC TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM APPLICANTS OVER DISTRICT WARDS



GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program ranked 2nd among all District offices in a survey of customer satisfaction taken by the City Administrator's office. We have installed a direct dial line for Spanish-speaking residents which is answered in Spanish and has Spanish voice mail for after-hours callers. A TTY line allows the hearing impaired to communicate directly with us without having to go through an interpreter. We also have a 1-800 number so that students can call us from school without incurring costly long distance charges. In addition to processing Tuition Assistance applications and payments to colleges, our office is seen as a resource in the Metropolitan area for information on student financial aid. We have been invited to literally hundreds of student aid sessions by both public and private high schools, churches, and community organizations.

APPLICANTS CAME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE CITY

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program was successful in reaching out to all areas of the city. Applicants came from all eight wards in the city with the highest percentage coming from Wards 4, 5, and 7.

DISTRICT STUDENTS ATTENDED COLLEGE IN 37 STATES

The D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program enabled District residents to attend college in 37 different states. Like most students, the majority of District students went to colleges and universities within 150 miles of home. However, District students were well represented all over the U.S. map. Tuition Assistance paid for students from California to Vermont, from Florida to Washington state.



DCTAG STUDENTS HAVE ATTENDED THESE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

American University
 Arizona State University
 Baltimore City Community College
 Binghamton University -
 State University of New York
 Bowie State University
 Cape Fear Community College
 Capitol College
 Catholic University of America
 Cecil Community College
 Central State University
 Central Washington University
 Cheyney State University
 Christopher Newport University
 Clemson University
 College of Charleston
 College of Southern Maryland
 College of William & Mary
 Columbia Union College
 Coppin State College
 Corcoran College of Art and Design
 De Anza Community College
 Delaware State University
 East Carolina University
 Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
 Elizabeth City State University
 Evergreen State College (The)
 Fairmont State College
 Fashion Institute of Technology
 Fayetteville State University
 Florida Agricultural & Mechanical
 University Florida State University
 Frederick Community College
 Frostburg State University
 Gallaudet University
 Garrett Community College
 George Mason University
 George Washington University
 Georgetown University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Georgia Perimeter College
 Glenville State College
 Grambling State University
 Hampton University

Hocking College
 Howard University
 Indiana University - Bloomington
 Iowa State University of Science &
 Technology
 James Madison University
 Kalamazoo Valley Community College
 Kent State University
 Labette Community College
 Lexington Community College
 Lincoln University
 Long Beach City College
 Longwood College
 Marshall University
 Mary Washington College
 Maryland College of Art and Design
 Marymount University
 Miami University
 Michigan State University
 Millersville University of Pennsylvania
 Mohawk Valley Community College
 Monterey Peninsula College
 Montgomery College
 Morgan State University
 New Mexico Military Institute
 Norfolk State University
 North Carolina Agricultural & Technical
 State University
 North Carolina Central University
 North Carolina School of the Arts
 North Carolina State University
 Northampton Community College
 Northern Virginia Community College
 Ohio State University (The)
 Ohio University
 Old Dominion University
 Parkland College
 Pennsylvania State University
 Pinal Community College District -
 Central Arizona College
 Prince George's Community College
 Purchase College of the State University
 of New York
 Radford University

Rutgers the State University of
 New Jersey
 Saint Paul's College
 Salisbury State University
 San Francisco State University
 Savannah State University
 Shepherd College
 Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania
 Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
 South Carolina State University
 South Georgia College
 Southeastern University
 Southern Oregon University
 Southern University and Agricultural &
 Mechanical College at Baton Rouge
 St. Mary's College of Maryland
 Temple University
 Tennessee State University
 Texas Southern University
 Towson University
 Trinity College
 University at Albany - State University
 of New York
 University of Alabama
 University of Arizona (The)
 University of Arkansas
 University of California - Davis
 University of California - San Diego
 University of California - Santa Cruz
 University of California - Berkeley
 University of Central Florida
 University of Cincinnati
 University of Colorado at Boulder
 University of Connecticut
 University of Delaware
 University of Illinois at Urbana -
 Champaign
 University of Illinois Central Office
 University of Iowa
 University of Maryland - Baltimore
 County
 University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
 University of Maryland - University
 College

University of Maryland at College Park
 University of Massachusetts - Amherst
 University of Memphis
 University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
 University of Montana (The)
 University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
 University of North Carolina - Charlotte
 University of North Carolina -
 Greensboro University of North Carolina
 - Wilmington
 University of North Carolina at Pembroke
 University of North Texas
 University of Northern Iowa
 University of Oregon
 University of Pittsburgh - Bradford
 University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh
 University of Pittsburgh at Titusville
 University of Rhode Island
 University of South Carolina
 University of Texas at Austin
 University of Vermont
 University of Virginia
 University of Wisconsin - Madison
 Valencia Community College
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State
 University
 Virginia State University
 Virginia Union University
 Weber State University
 West Virginia State College
 West Virginia University
 Western Connecticut State University
 Winston - Salem State University
 Winthrop University
 Wright State University



Government of the District of Columbia

Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

District of Columbia
Tuition Assistance Grant Program

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